Since 1954, our nation has observed Veterans Day in order to honor all veterans of military service.

In Congress, we have been working hard to meet the needs of our veterans, including the largest increase in funding for the Veterans Affairs department in our history. The New GI Bill has opened the doors to higher education for countless Americans. During the first few months, almost 300,000 veterans signed up for these important educational benefits. This year, Congress expanded this access to college for children whose parents have died on active duty since September 11, 2001.

As President Obama said, "We have a sacred trust with those who wear the uniform of the United States of America ... Caring for our veterans is more than a way of thanking them for their service. It is an obligation to our fellow citizens who have risked their lives to defend our freedom."

Please join me, in communities throughout the Ninth Congressional District, as we pay tribute to our veterans and to thank them publicly for their service.

For more information about Veterans Day, go to : http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/ or click he re